

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this patent application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments, and the following remarks. Claims 2, 3, 5 and 7-10 are in the application. Claims 8 and 10 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

The Examiner rejected claims 2, 8, and 9 under 35 USC §102 (b) as being anticipated by Bertels. The Examiner rejected under 35 USC §103(a) claim 3 as being unpatentable over Bertels in view of Persson, claim 5 as being unpatentable over Bertels in view of Kunz et al., and claims 7 and 10 as being unpatentable over Bertels in view of Frings et al. Applicants respectfully traverse.

Applicant has amended claim 1 to clarify that width of the soldering joint extends from the butt joint and along the iron or titanium sheet. The remainder of the seam, which extends from the butt joint and along the aluminum sheet, consists of the welding joint. This can be seen in FIG. 2 of the drawings, where width b extends from the butt joint and along the iron material.

The Examiner states that the invention is anticipated by Bertels because the width b of the seam 35 is 8 mm. Since it is stated that the thickness of the sheet is 2 mm, it follows that the width b would be larger than 3 x the sheet thickness. The Examiner overlooks that the width b in Bertels comprises the total width of the seam 35. Since the aluminum sheet 32 and the iron sheet 31 according to Figs. 6 and 7 have a distance a of 2 mm, the width b of seam 35 has a measurement of 1.5 mm at the side of the iron sheet 31. Claim 8 does not claim that the total width of the seam be greater than 3 x the thickness of the iron sheet but only the width of the (partial) seam in the area of the iron sheet. Only the width of the seam in the area of the iron sheet is important because the seam to the iron material (steel material) represents a soldering joint. The seam in the area of the aluminum material is a welding joint.

Accordingly, applicants submit that independent claims 8 and 10, as well as the dependent claims, are patentable over the cited references, taken either singly or in combination. Early allowance of the amended claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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